

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

COPY

In the Matter of the Public Reprimand
of the Educator's Certificate of
Carolyn M. West
Certificate # 082956

)
) **CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND**
)
)
)
)
GTR

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 11, 2003. On September 5, 2002, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator's Certificate (certificate) to Ms. Carolyn M. West by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Ms. West received this notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt and initially requested a hearing. Subsequent to this request, Ms. West, through her attorney, Robert D. Hazel, Esquire, proposed to resolve this matter without a hearing by agreeing to the following terms: (1) a public reprimand will be issued by the State Board, (2) she agrees that this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) this order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a Consent Order of Public Reprimand on the terms set forth above.

Accepted:
CMW
Initial Here

Date:
2-5-03

Carolyn M.
West
#082956

FINDINGS OF FACT

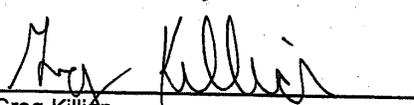
Ms. West holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has over eighteen years of teaching experience. During the 2001-2002 school year, Ms. West was an English and French teacher at Carolina Forest High School in the Horry Country School District (District). She taught in the District from 1988-2002. She was placed on administrative leave with pay on May 17, 2002 following an investigation by the District into allegations that on May 15, 2002, she threw a stapler in the direction of a student who was leaving her class. After discussions with District officials, she agreed to resign. Subsequently, the District reported the incident to the Department. Ms.

West stated she asked the student to leave the class because the student continued to act in a belligerent manner. Ms. West admitted throwing the stapler, which struck the door to her class after the student left the room. Ms. West stated she was wrong for throwing the stapler but that she never intended to harm the student in any way. She has agreed to accept this reprimand on the conditions outlined above.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (1990), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. The Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke Ms. West's certificate; however, cause does exist for a Public Reprimand of Ms. West's conduct. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand as set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education


Greg Killian
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 11, 2003

I, Carolyn M. West, SC Teaching Certificate # 082956, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, February 11, 2003.

2-5-03
Date

Carolyn M. West
Signature